

Annual Report 2009



Public Health Resource Network, Odisha

Message from the President

This year has been eventful for PHRN Odisha as it has introduced new initiatives like the Community Health Fellowship programme and the Post graduate Diploma in District Health Management (PGDDHM) programme.

I express my thanks to all the supporters who have been instrumental in supporting our endeavor of strengthening the health care delivery system. It has been successful in strengthening its network by reinforcing new members by collaborating with like minded CSOs, Government, Individuals and UN agencies.

Capacity building continues to be the core of PHRN's work and thus in 2009 around 100 public health professional have been trained to support the district health system. The research initiatives of PHRN Odisha have gained momentum through the CHF programme to provide inputs to the district and state health administration for effective functioning. The year marked the formation of viable district level resource groups to support our activities and advocate for the cause that we work for. Further they been successful in sharing of information and knowledge by being in an information loop.

Lastly, I thank all my colleagues for their valuable support inspite of all the odds. On behalf of the PHRN Family I thank our supporters, partner organizations, Government health officials, staffs of NRHM and members of the State and District Resource Groups. We will continue to work with their support and encouragement in the years ahead.



Dr. Shiba Kumar Rath
President

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Public Health Resource Society, New Delhi

The Genesis: Public Health Resource Network (PHRN) was initially brought into being in the year 2005 as a documentation and dissemination initiative of the State Health Resource Centre (SHSRC), Chhattisgarh in order to accelerate and consolidate the potential gains from the NRHM that can truly change the health scenario of the disadvantaged people. Since then PHRN has been active in refining its objectives and strategies in accordance with the experiences as well as the circumstances in which it works.

Laying the roots: Public Health Resource Society (PHRS) PHRS is the core group that has initiated the network. It comprises of a small group of members and full timers that provides leadership to the network as well as functions as its secretariat. PHRS was registered under the society's registration Act of 1860 in the year 2008 with its head office at New Delhi.

Objectives

1. Reaching out to dedicated individuals and organizations for whom health equity is a major concern, and providing them access to essential information and opportunities to contribute to this goal.
2. Sharing public health technical resources with existing and potential district health programme managers towards strengthening the public health system in their districts. Assisting in the emergence of state and district level resource groups for this purpose.
3. Empowering civil society to create spaces, and utilizing the spaces being created under the NRHM, for improving and increasing public participation in health planning and management.
4. Promoting decentralization and horizontal integration at district, block and gram panchayat levels by contributing to capacity building at these levels on technical, programmatic, epidemiological and social understandings of health.
5. Strengthening the resource base needed for informed advocacy within the government and within civil society.
6. Facilitating networking and mutual support among public health practitioners.

Core Strategies

1. Conducting a PHRN certificate learning programme for public health practitioners both within and outside of government.
2. Supporting Fast Track Capacity Building Programme on district health planning and management for public health sector employees.
3. Conducting Fellowship Programme to induct and groom interested persons into working towards public health goals.
4. Participating in a Post Graduate Diploma in District Health Management in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Open University and conducting in the four states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Orissa.
5. Strengthening community processes in NRHM
 - o Support to the ASHA programme
 - o Facilitating effective VHSC functioning and village health planning
 - o Facilitating public participation in health management through bodies like Rogi Kalyan Samiti
 - o Capacity building and support to PRIs' involvement
 - o Assisting community monitoring processes to improve facilities and services
6. Making district planning more equitable and effective by
 - o Research inputs
 - o Independent appraisals and evaluations
 - o Assisting access to information and technical resources
 - o Organizing peer reviews
 - o Demonstrating quality district health plans through intensive work in 3-4 districts of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Orissa.
7. Promoting networking and the emergence of district and state level groups and teams with a high degree of motivation and skill. Holding conventions, seminars, study groups and meetings to facilitate this process.

Our Partners:

PHRN has working relationships with a number of front ranking organizations in public health from which it draws technical support and guidance for its programmes. The organizations include: National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), State Health Resource Centre (SHRC), Chhattisgarh, ICICI Centre for Child Health and Nutrition (ICCHN), Population Foundation of India (PFI), Child In Need Institute (CINI), Jharkhand, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW), SEARCH, Gadchiroli.

Spreading the wings:

PHRN has been active since 2005 in the states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Orissa. It has also supported similar action in many other states, such as Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttarakhand and the North Eastern states.

Public Health Resource Network, Odisha

The beginning and the journey: Public Health Resource Network of Odisha came into existence in the year 2006. Initially it focused on identifying individuals and organizations who had the zeal and commitment to strengthen the public health system in the state at various levels. The district and state support groups were gradually formed and initiatives were taken to strengthen their skills on public health management through the structured distance learning programme on district health management.

Since then PHRN Odisha went on spreading its wings across the state by launching a series of programmes including:

- ◆ Fast track capacity building for government personnel to build their skills for effective district level health planning and management,
- ◆ Community health fellowship programme for strengthening the communitization processes of NRHM
- ◆ Partnering with IGNOU to run the Post Graduate Diploma in District Health Management (PGDDHM) course.

Looking into a long term perspective of having sustained and meaningful engagement of strengthening public health system, PHRN Odisha intensified its efforts by emphasizing on:

- ◆ Civil society strengthening for effective advocacy initiatives and strengthening community led processes.
- ◆ Action research for supporting the district health administration for better health planning and management
- ◆ Working in coordination with the district and state health system to strengthen various public health initiatives.
- ◆ Publishing news letters and action research papers for wider dissemination.

How we work:

PHRN Odisha's philosophy is to work for a common goal by forming viable networks. We promote a network that is unlike the conventional form which are overly complex and based on certain hierarchical principle. Our network believes in massive sharing of intellectual/technical resources, follows the principle of participative democracy and a total commitment for achieving the core objectives. The common goal that we look forward to within this actors are knowledge sharing, innovation, knowledge development or co-creation, interorganizational capacity building, joint problem solving and sustained synergy. In this context PHRN groups have been formed at the district and state level to support our initiatives.

The PHRN groups comprises of existing networks working on public health, NGOs, Government institutions, academic and research institutions, media, philanthropic individuals, corporate, cooperatives and SHG's. The main mandate of the network has been to strengthen the district health system.

Area of operation:

PHRN Odisha currently works intensively in the districts of Angul, Dhenkanal, Bargarh, Deogarh, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Nuapada and Rayagada where the Community Health Fellows are placed and are working towards strengthening the communitization initiatives of NRHM. In the capacity building front we work extensively in almost all the districts of Odisha with varying degree of intensity.

Way forward:

The journey has just began and PHRN Odisha looks forward to intensifying its prime focus of building a cadre of public health professionals through its capacity building programmes. It would look for more committed individuals and organizations to support our relentless endeavor for strengthening district health system for making the network for vibrant and effective. It shall strive to facilitate the translation of the knowledge into practice of the individuals and organizations acquired through the capacity building programme for developing viable district health plan and efficient management of the district health system. Special emphasis shall be laid on civil society strengthening for supporting the communitization initiatives of NRHM. Action research shall also be taken up to stimulate the district and state administration and to support our advocacy initiatives.

Our Partners:

To strengthen our initiatives, the state and district level networks and organizations have played a significant role. They include White Ribbon Alliance (WRA), LEPRASociety, South Odisha Voluntary Association, EKJUT SOVA, and Campaign against Child labor, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFP, NRHM, SHAKTI, AIRA, and Right to Food campaign, SWABHIMAN, AJKA, OPDSC, NIRVAR, SARD, ARUNI, FARR, UTKAL, PRAGATI, USO, MY HEART, SIDA and AID

Activities of PHRN Odisha

Structured Learning Programme on Decentralised Health Management

This module based learning programme complements official processes of capacity building with a more informal, open ended participatory and immediate reach out to individuals and organizations working towards strengthening district public health system.

Aim:

This course aims at building the capacities of public health professionals who can be instrumental in achieving the goals of NRHM of effective decentralized health planning and management at the village, block and district levels. This can ensure effective, equitable, accessible and affordable health care for all.

The contents of the course:

The course is designed as a module-based distance education programme, to be completed, optimally, within a period of 18 months. There are 14 compulsory subjects including introduction to public health system, reduction of maternal mortality, accelerating child survival, community participation and community health workers, Behavior change communication and training, mainstreaming women health concerns, Community participation beyond community health workers, Disease control programmes, convergence, district health planning, district



health management, public-private partnership, legal frame work of health care, issues of governance and health sector reform. Besides this there is an option to choose 2 optional papers from a range of subjects including tribal health, urban health, hospital administration, non- communicable diseases and mental health and disaster and epidemic management.

Mode of learning:

The mode of learning is through CONTACT PROGRAMME which is held in each quarter. In addition to this a number of informal contact opportunities are also done to guide the participants in completing their assignments and clarifying specific doubts. The resource person support is drawn from various PHRN resource groups formed at district and state level and the state programme staffs play a major anchoring role.

Certification:

Certificate of participation is awarded to those who have attended all the contact programmes but have not submitted the assignments. However Certificate of achievement is given to those participants who have attended all the contact programmes and also have submitted the assignments.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ *The first batch (2006-08) of the structured distance learning programme on district health management had 135 participants comprising of 16 MBBS doctors, 15 AYUSH doctors and 104 participants from civil society, NRHM and academicians. The certificate of completion has been awarded to 89 participants. These participants are contributing to the district health planning and management at various levels.*
- ◆ *In the second and current batch (2008-10) around 86 participants have been enrolled comprising of 11 MBBS doctors, 16 AYUSH doctors and 59 participants from civil Society, NRHM and academicians. The training is continuing and it has imparted training upto the 10th module.*

Fast track Capacity building

The focus: The fast track capacity building initiative focuses on building the capacities of government personnel and other key stake holders working with NRHM for effective district level health planning and management. The idea is to create district level resource persons who shall be supported by a team of state level resource persons for having viable district health plans that actually reflects the needs of the community.

The design of the capacity building programme: The fast track capacity building programme is designed to be done in 3 rounds for a batch of participants and each round is for six days and the rounds are held three to four months apart. The training covers a well defined syllabus which contains a proper blending of theory and practical applications that can help the participants to contribute towards strengthening the district planning and management initiatives. There shall be systematic follow up after the training programme to look into the application of the knowledge imparted to the participants.

Support for the programme: The fast track programmes are held in collaboration with State governments, the NHSRC (National Health System Resource Center) and state or regional level technical support/ resource agencies. PHRN offers support through training material, appropriate national level resource persons, quality control and follow up to ensure acquisition of skills and information and translation to action at state and district level.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ The first round of the first batch of fast track capacity building was held from 19th May to 24th May 2008 at State Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Bhubaneswar. Around 36 participants (19 doctors from various facility levels and 17 NRHM staffs joined the programme from 8 districts of Orissa including Angul, Balasore, Bhadrak, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Nuapada and Sundargarh.
- ◆ The participants have initiated the process of spearheading the district health action plan processes and have added new dimensions to it in their respective districts. They have been instrumental in acting as district resource persons in supporting our initiatives of capacity building and action research. They have also significantly contributed in strengthening the district level networks by roping in highly motivated individuals and organizations to support our initiatives.

Community Health Fellowship (CHF) Programme

About the Programme: The Community Health Fellowship (CHF) programme has been launched in the state of Odisha from 1st of January-2009 to promote action research in community based health planning and management. This is a civil society initiative to support the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in partnership with National Health Systems Resource Centre, the apex technical support institution for NRHM; SEARCH, a pioneering NGO; and the ICICI centre for Child Health and Nutrition, a funding and research group. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Government of India's flagship programme for health aims to improve the quality of public health services by encouraging community participation and decentralizing public health planning and implementation. The community health fellowships are being launched to strengthen the capacities of field level civil society participation in the NRHM and in the process build a team of young professionals and dedicated youth with the perspectives and skills to contribute to pro-poor community development work throughout the rest of their careers.



Objective of the programme: The community Health fellowship Programme is a two year full time programme which provides young development professionals a strong background in the field of community health. The programme shall nurture, groom and educate the fellows towards enhancing and strengthening of various community processes in NRHM at the district and grassroots level.

The fellowship programme imparts multidisciplinary knowledge to the young professionals that is relevant to the context through a learning process that has action and reflection inbuilt into it. The focus is on creating community health professionals with high motivation and technical competencies to work with people, civil societies and the state to further the ideals of "Health for All".

Areas of Operation: CHF programme has been initiated in the eight districts of Orissa - Angul, Baragarh, Dhenkanal, Koraput, Mayurbhanj, Nayagarh, Rayagada and Nuapada

Activities: The community Health fellows are involved in the following major set of activities including:

- ◆ Supporting the comunization initiatives of NRHM at the district level
- ◆ Action research
- ◆ Civil society strengthening and network building
- ◆ Supporting the preparation and implementation of district health action plan
- ◆ Supporting the Capacity building of key stake holders at various levels.
- ◆ Individual capacity building of the CHFs

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ The CHF programme has been officially flagged of by the Mission Director(NRHM) and necessary government directives have been given to the CDMOs for support
- ◆ A report on the rapid assessment of the district health profile stating the gaps and the challenges with recommendations has been disseminated to the district and state health administration for appropriate action. The CHFs have supported the district health administration in initiating actions and bringing about desired changes. The actions initiated were towards:
 - a) Supporting the GKS in making them functional and more effective
 - b) Enhancing the quality of the functioning of ASHA through capacity building support
 - c) Making the JSY effective by generating awareness among the beneficiaries and stimulating the health administration
 - d) Initiating formation and strengthening of Rogi Kalyan Samitis
 - e) Supporting the community in monitoring the activities of the malaria control programme
- ◆ The action research has been initiated by the CHFs on specific topics in their respective districts. Currently they are in the piloting phase and are mentored by professors from JNU, Jamia Millia Islamia University, Doctors working exclusively in Public Health and social scientists.
- ◆ The CHF has facilitated the process of strengthening the district level network by identifying key individuals and organizations and initiating concerted efforts for strengthening district health system. District and block level resource groups are in the process of getting strengthened which shall help in intensifying our work and have a strong group to advocate for the cause that we are working for.
- ◆ The CHFs have participated in the PIP dissemination processes in their respective districts. They are now currently involved in working with the district health administration to support I the development of a realistic district health action plan.
- ◆ The CHFs have been involved in supporting the district health administration in various capacity building initiatives. They were involved in the capacity building programme of the members of GKS and RKS, the ASHA and the health workers on malaria control programmes.
- ◆ The CHFs were exposed to a series of national level workshops where they were trained on various techniques of action research and were exposed to various replicable models. They have been successful in disseminating the learning's to a larger group of audience at the district level.

Partnering with IGNOU for the Postgraduate diploma in district health Management (PGDDHM) course

Launching of the programme: PHRN and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) have signed a MoU to conduct a Post Graduate Diploma Course in District Health Management. This one year course was officially launched from July 2009. The course is intended to strengthen the public health services in general, and the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in particular. Both medical and non-medical graduates with two years experience in the health sector will be eligible for the course.

The course: Emphasis for the course will be on field based learning and understanding the public health system, national disease control programmes, women and child health, district health management, health sector reforms, issues in governance of health service systems and a choice of several elective papers. Because of its broad based content, the course will be of relevance to those aspiring to make a career in public health.

Achievement: PHRN Odisha has been successful in enrolling 35 candidates from diverse background including MBBS doctors, AYUSH doctors, NRHM staffs, Civil society professionals working in the public health domain and academicians looking forward to working in the public health domain. The state office shall act as study centre and shall be involved in imparting education and assisting the participants in completing their assignments.

Support to district and state health administration

As the strength of the network went on increasing with the passage of time, PHRN Orissa gradually intensified its initiative both at the district and the state level. The PHRN groups created at the district and state level have been instrumental in supporting PHRN in its unique endeavor.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Supporting the preparation of the plan for state malarial control Programme
- ◆ Participating in the formation of Centre for Excellence on BCC by NRHM
- ◆ Supporting the district administration in the monitoring of IRS & LLIN activities
- ◆ Participating in the dissemination of District Health Action plans
- ◆ Participating in the regional 5th module ASHA training and subsequently acting as resource persons for imparting training.
- ◆ Formation of Rogi Kalyan Samities (RKS)
- ◆ Strengthening of RKS and GKS
- ◆ Strengthening of effective functioning of Village health and Nutrition Day (VHND)
- ◆ Supporting the distribution and monitoring of Long lasting Insecticide treatment nets (LLIN)

Building and strengthening civil society groups

PHRN Odisha's relentless pursuit in identifying like minded individuals and organizations to strengthen the network has brought about the formation of district and state resource groups who support our initiatives. These groups comprises of individuals and organizations from NGOs, Government institutions, academic and research institutions, philanthropic individuals and individuals from the cooperatives and SHGs.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ Presence of strong PHRN groups at the district and state level to support our initiatives
- ◆ Building of individual and organizational strengths through massive sharing of knowledge and best practices among the network members
- ◆ Support of the network members in carrying forward our initiatives including communitization processes and research initiatives



Research and Advocacy

To support the state and district health administration in identifying core issues and challenges in the planning, implementation and management of public health programmes, PHRN thought it proper to take up research activities which can give concrete evidences for necessary actions to be initiated. Further basing on this findings advocacy initiatives can be taken up at various levels to make various dormant systems functional as well as take up new viable initiatives. In this context looking into the organizational strengths and the launching of the Community Health Fellowship programme the following research initiatives have been taken:

- ◆ A Study on the role of health seeking behavior in prevalence of malaria in Bandhabhuin G.P in Pallahada block of Angul district.
- ◆ To study the factors behind high prevalence of home delivery in Amsena GP, Nuapada block of Nuapada district.
- ◆ A study on the factors affecting the maternal health services in tribal areas
- ◆ A study on the involvement of PRIs and CBOs in preparation of village health plan
- ◆ A study on Identifying key factors for poor post natal care services in Paikamal block of Bargarh district.
- ◆ A study on identifying key factors affecting the nutritional status of rural women during child bearing stages
- ◆ A study on role of GKS on reducing prevalence rate of Malaria.
- ◆ A study on the importance of capacity building in improving decentralized planning and management by Gaon Kalyan Samiti.

Publications

To disseminate the learning's, best practices and knowledge base to the network members and other key stake holders PHRN took the initiative in developing a quarterly news bulletin named "RASHMI".



Trainings and workshops

PHRN has organized district level trainings and workshops in collaboration with district health administration for supporting various public health initiatives.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- ◆ District level TOT on developing Village Health Micro Plan
- ◆ District level workshop on Participatory Rural Appraisal
- ◆ District level training on Fever Treatment Depot (FTD) for malaria
- ◆ District level workshop on civil society building and network building
- ◆ State level induction of Community Health Fellows
- ◆ State level study circle meet

Participation in trainings and workshops

To enhance the knowledge and capacity while also contributing to various public health initiatives the following major events were attended by the state team at the district, state and national levels :

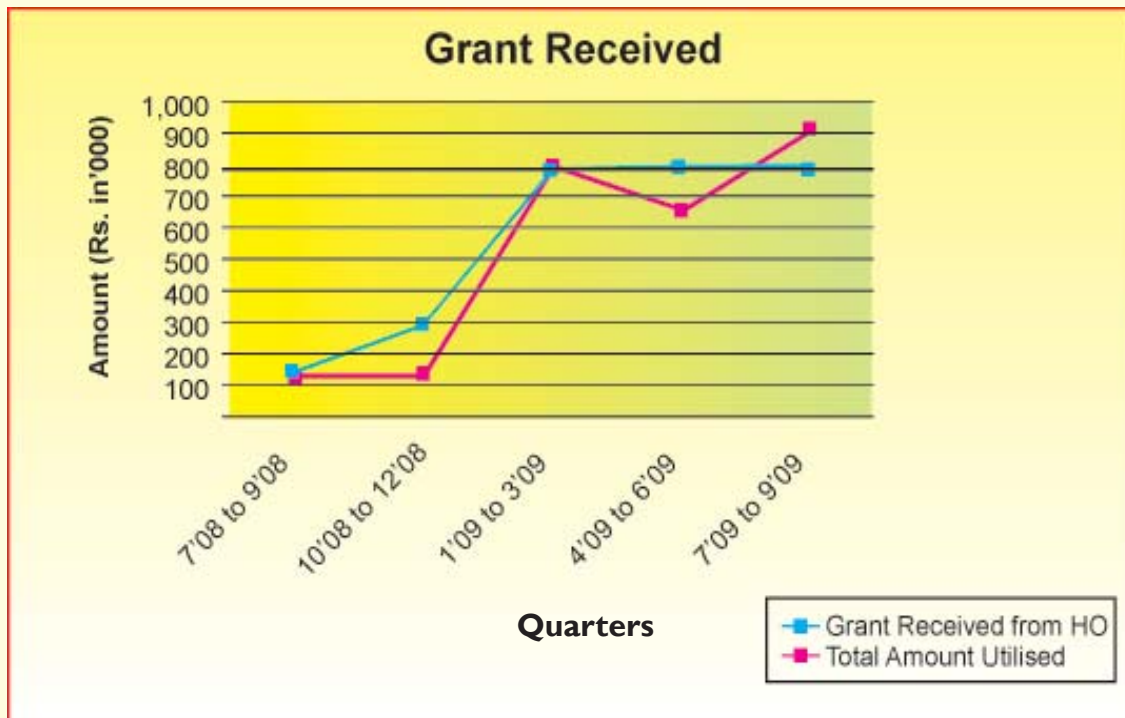
- ◆ National level induction programme for community Health Fellows, SEARCH, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra.
- ◆ State level workshop on Advocacy Communication and Social Mobilization (ACSM), Puri, Orissa
- ◆ State level consultation on developing Centre for Excellence in BCC, NRHM, Orissa
- ◆ State level consultation on developing strategy for tackling TB/HIV co-infection in tribal areas of Orissa, LEPRASociety, Bhubaneswar, Orissa
- ◆ National level workshop on research for social action (April 2009), Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi.
- ◆ State level Consultation developing innovative BCC activities on malaria control at various levels, NVBDCP, BBSR, Orissa
- ◆ National level workshop on research for social action (August 2009), Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi.
- ◆ State level advocacy-cum- sensitization event on prevention and control of malaria and other vector borne diseases (VBD).
- ◆ State level TOT on Fever Treatment Depot on malaria
- ◆ National level workshop on ASHA evaluation and National Health Bill-2008, New Delhi
- ◆ National level campaign on Right to Food at New Delhi.

State level bodies

State Advisory Group	
Name	Designation
Dr S.K.Rath, MBBS, MS, Ex CDMO & Ex State Director European Commission	President
Dr Sanghamitra Panda, Pediatrician	Vice President
Dr H.K. Das, Ex Director Health Services	Advisor
Dr Rabi Rath, Ex Regional Director- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	Advisor
Dr Pk.Senapati, Ex Director Health Services	Advisor
Dr Seva Mahapatra , Ex Director Health Services	Advisor
State Resource Group	
Dr M.M.Pradhan, MBBS, MAE-FETP	State Convenor
Mr. Charu Chandra Mohapatra, IEC/ BCC Consultant NVBDCP	Treasurer
Dr. Bijayini Mohapatra, HOD SPM, SCB Medical College	Member
Dr. Kaushik Mishra, Associate professor, SPM, SCB Medical College	Member
Mr. Rudra Prasad Pradhan, BCC Consultant ,NRHM	Member
Mr. Pran Gopal Das, ME Consultant, NRHM	Member
Mr. Sukant Mishra, State NGO Coordinator, NRHM	Member
Mr. Manas Ranjan Pradhan, DPM- Angul	Member
Dr. Anita Anusaya, WHO Consultant	Member
Dr. Deepa Prasad, UNFP State representative	Member
Mr. Pradeep Mishra, CARE India	Member
Mr. Shaktidhar Sahoo, State Coordinator -WRA	Member
Mr. Sishir Kumar Grahacharya, SPM NRHM	Member
Mr. Sashikant Nayak, LEPRASOCIETY	Member
Ms. AVA Das, Development Consultant	Member
Ms. Nina Singh, HR Manager -NRHM	Member
Mr. Manoranja Mishra, Ex State NGO Coordinator	Member
Ms. Seema Pati, Ex SPM - NRHM	Member
Mr. Biswajit Modak, Training Consultant -NRHM	Member
State team	
Dr M.M.Pradhan, MBBS, MAE-FETP	State Convenor
Mr. Charu Chandra Mohapatra	Treasurer
Mr. S.N.Patnaik	Programme Coordinator
Dr. Saumya Ranjan Mishra	Programme Coordinator
Mr. Subhasis Panda	Programme Coordinator
Mr. Saroj Kumar Bhoi	Office support

Financial Information (July 2008- September 2009)

Quarters	7'08 to 9'08	10'08 to 12'08	1'09 to 3'09	4'09 to 6'09	7'09 to 9'09
Grant Received from HO	150.00	300.00	792.00	800.00	800.00
Total Amount Utilized	136.83	145.77	800.55	660.29	916.04
Amount Un-utilized	13.17	154.23	(8.55)	139.71	(116.04)



We acknowledge the support provided by M/s Mohapatra & Associates for their valuable financial services.

An Appeal for Support

You can support PHRN's initiative in strengthening the public health system across the state by:

A) Being a member of the network through the following options

- ◆ **E group-** Communication and information sharing in the network is enabled by an e group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/phrn2006>). Any concerned individual may join the PHRN e group by a simple process of application through an existing member.
- ◆ **Annual membership-** Annual membership to the general body of the network may be applied for through an existing member along with the annual fees of Rs 200/-
- ◆ **Life time membership-** A life time membership may be applied for and it carries a fee of Rs 3000/-
- ◆ **Associate membership-** Associate membership can be applied for by any organization actively involved with health related activities. Fees will be fixed by the governing board on a case by case basis and representation to the general body will be by representation.
- ◆ **Student membership and affiliate membership-** It may be applied for free of charge. These members will not be considered members of the general body.

B) Volunteering services for strengthening the initiatives of PHRN. You can render your service by:

- ◆ Supporting the massive capacity building initiative on district health management as a resource person.
- ◆ Supporting various communitization processes, action research, campaign and advocacy initiatives at various levels
- ◆ Supporting the initiative of developing a viable district health action plan and management

You can join us in our capacity building programmes

Building Capacities- Strengthening Public Health Systems

....An Initiative of Public Health Resource Network (PHRN, Odisha)

Structured Learning Programme on Decentralised Health Management

About the course The course is designed as a module-based distance education programme, to be completed, optimally, within a period of 18 months. There are 14 compulsory subjects including introduction to public health system, reduction of maternal mortality, accelerating child survival, community participation and community health workers, Behavior change communication and training, mainstreaming women health concerns, Community participation beyond community health workers, Disease control programmes, convergence, district health planning, district health management, public-private partnership, legal frame work of health care, issues of governance and health sector reform. Besides this there is an option to choose 2 optional papers from a range of subjects including tribal health, urban health, hospital administration, non- communicable diseases and mental health and disaster and epidemic management.

Who can join? Doctors, Paramedics, AYUSH doctors, NGO Professionals working in the health sector, academicians and students

Admission: The admission starts from 1st of January-2010

Course Fee: Rs. 2000

Post Graduate Diploma in District Health Management

The course: This is a one year course given by IGNOU intended to strengthen the public health services in general and the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in particular. PHRN is the official study centre for the course. Emphasis for the course will be on field based learning and understanding the public health system, national disease control programmes, women and child health, district health management, health sector reforms, issues in governance of health service systems and a choice of several elective papers. Because of its broad based content, the course will be of relevance to those aspiring to make a career in public health.

Who can join? Both medical and non-medical graduates with two years experience in the health sector will be eligible for the course.

Admission: The admission starts from March-2010

Course Fee: Rs. 10,000

